

# Good Counſel

To be had at a Cheap

R A T E.

Wherein is contained many excellent  
matters which are very needful to be had  
in conſideration amongſt all ſorts of  
people that are now living in Eng-  
land, Scotland, Wales and  
IRELAND.

Note it well, and reſuſe not  
Good Counſell.

Rom. 11. 33, 34.

*O the depth of the Riches both of the wiſe-  
dome and knowledge of God, how un-  
ſearchable are his judgements, and his  
wayes paſt finding out.*

*For who hath known the mind of the Lord,  
or who hath been his Counſeller ?*

Thou that to read this Title doth begin,  
Turn over leaf and ſee what is within.

---

Printed for W. Gilbertſon at the ſign of the  
Bible in Gilt ſpur-ſtreet, 1663.



*frances woffeston her booke*



## To the READER.

**I**F thou desirest good counsel for to learn,  
bestow some time this little Book to read,  
Here good from bad with ease you may discern,  
if in thy reading thou dost take good heed.  
This Book such excellent vertues doth contain,  
Hardly the like's in all the world again.

It shews how first of all the world began,  
which wondrous matter is by Scripture provd,  
It shews why and wherefore the Lord made man  
and being made, how dearly God him lov'd;  
It shews of what mans soul was made at first,  
And how God breath'd into the corps of dust.

Also good counsel here is laid up in store,  
of which most men are now in extreame need,  
Let every one make trial now therefore,  
the more you take the better you may speed.  
If friends and kinsfolks do forsake & leave thee,  
Good counsel is a friend will ne'r deceive thee.



# THE AVTHOR,

To the READER.

*S*pare not my Book,  
to tell whats to be done,  
Flatter no man  
but sound instruction give.  
Teach all men how  
Gods anger they may shun.  
And in a conscionable  
way to live,  
Speak truth to all  
theres no man wil thee blame,  
But highly will commend thee  
for the same.

Dear



Dear friends, the beginning of my *Book*  
 is of *Matters concerning the beginning of the*  
**WORLD**, which if you will be pleased  
 to peruse, and take good notice of it, may  
 through Gods blessing yield and procure  
 consolation to the soul, satisfaction to the  
 mind, and comfort to the body : and thus  
 it begins.



**I**N the beginning GOD crea-  
 ted the Heaven & the Earth  
*Gen. 1. 1.* And the Earth  
 was without *Forme*, and  
 void and *Darkness* was up-  
 on the face of the deep and  
 the spirit of GOD moved on the face of  
 the

the waters, and said, Let there be Light, and there was Light. And God saw the Light that it was good. And God divided the Light from the darknesse. And God called the Light Day, and the Darknesse he called Night, and the evening and the morning was the first day, as it follows in the fifth verse.

The second day, God made the firmament, and divided the waters from the dry Land, and he called the Firmament Heaven, as it is in the 8 verse of the same Chapter.

The third day, God having divided the water, God made the Earth, that it should bring forth Grasse, and the Trees that they should bring forth fruit whose seed was in it self; and God saw that all that was done was good.

The fourth Day God made the two great Luminaries or Lights, which are called the Sun and the Moon. The great Light he appointed to rule by day, and the lesser by night. He made the Stars also, and placed them in the Firmament of heaben, to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day, and over the night, that it was good.

The fifth day God made the fishes of the sea, the Fowls of the air; the Beasts of the earth,

and every creeping worm and Creature, that was then upon the ground, and God saw that it was good, ver. 25. but all this while man was not yet made. Then God the Father said, as we may conceive, to God the Son and the Holy Ghost, Let us make man in our own Image, after our own likeness. Gen 1. 26. and so upon the sixth day God created man, in his own Image and likeness created he them Male and Female.

Moreover, when the Lord had made man in that goodly form and fashion of his own Likeness, he loved him, and took such affection to him, that he made him Lord and ruler over all that he had made before, both of the Fishes of the Sea, the Fowls of the Air, the Beasts of the field, and the like. And thus dear friends, have I expressed the manner of the beginning of the world, according as it was set down by Moses the Pen-man of the holy Ghost.

And now let us draw into consideration, to know wherefore God made man, why thus certainly it is to be believed, that as God made all other Creatures to serve and obey man, so he made man to obey his Lord and Master.

Therefore my counsel is this, that every man and every Woman that is living and breathing upon the face of the Earth, may



with unfeigned hearts, and with all reverence and humilitie lift up their hands and eyes toward heauen, where Gods throne is, and render him thanks for the manifold and numberless gifts that he hath already bestowed upon us; and to praise his Name for the Blessings which we enjoy at this present time; and withal, to make our continuall prayers and supplications unto the Lord God of heauen & earth, that he will never be unkindfull of us, and let his blessings depart from us, while the Sun, Moon and Stars give light, and all the whole world shall be dissolved. Furthermore we are to consider, that when God created man, he formed him of the dust of the earth, and breathed in his nostrills the breath of life, and man became a living soul, Gen. 2. 7.

Here is a plain and easie rule whereby to know what the Soule of man is, for before that the **L O R D** had breathed into him the breath of life, man was not said to be a living soul, but after God had breathed in him the breath of life, man became a living soul; by which we may assure our selves, that the soul of man is the breath of God in part, another thing to be considered, scilicet. and this it is, When God created Man he made him two ears to hear, two eyes to see, two hands



hands to work, two feet to walk, or go upon :  
 but one Soul, and that Soul of man is of more  
 value than ten thousand Worlds. Therefore  
 my counsell is to every one that they have a  
 great care of that precious Jewell which is  
 held at so high a rate ; I mean the Soule of  
 man, it is the breath of God, therefore keep it  
 safe, It is that which preserves thy bodys life,  
 whilst thou liv'st on Earth ; therefore use it  
 well, it is that which our Lord and Saviour  
 Jesus Christ shed his most precious blood to  
 save us ; therefore take heed thou lose it not.  
 In a word, the Soul is that part of man and  
 woman that first goes to Heaven, if ever they  
 come there ; therefore remember what is said  
 and bear it in mind unto your lifes end.

Thus having in small time laid open part of  
 my great purposes, I will with speed break  
 off from my former discourse, and hasten the  
 finishing of the rest of my exercises, which is  
 called, Good Counsell, which are severall yet  
 all very useful and necessary : I doubt not  
 but that they will give good content to them  
 that will either read or hear them : and first  
 of all I shall begin with Conscience.

A clear Conscience said to be a continuall  
 feast, and so indeed it may very well be called,  
 and ten times happy is that man or woman,  
 that

that hath got a convenient Room to entertain  
 so good a Guest. He that enjoys a good Con-  
 science, although he be poor in the eye of the  
 world, he is rich in the sight of God. A good  
 conscience may be compared with the chiefest  
 Jewels that can be spoken of in the world. It  
 is like the Tree in Arabia, which is called Mele  
 which Tree affords Food for the belly, Ray-  
 ment for the back, and weapons of Defence  
 for the body. It is like the Noble pine Tree,  
 which was never known to be rotten-hearted,  
 although it be never so old, neither can any  
 poisonous Wasp, nor venomous Spider come  
 near it, nor can any Canker eating worm once  
 come near it. The very leaves whereof conti-  
 nueth fresh and green both Summer and Win-  
 ter, so that the scorching heat of Summer burns  
 them not, nor can the piercing cold and nipping  
 Frosts of Winter do them any kind of harme.  
 Again a good conscience is like that excellent  
 Adamant stone, which is so hard that it will cut  
 glasse, whom neither stroke of hammer nor  
 heat of fire can pierce or dissolve.

To be brief, this good Conscience is like  
 unto the bright shining splendor of the Sunne  
 when he is in full glory, whom no mortall eye  
 is able to behold; so farre it exceeds all other  
 lights.

**Lights.** On the other side an evil and corrupt conscience is ever at war within it selfe, and can never be at rest sleeping or waking, it is alwayes plodding to doe mischief, alwayes doubting what will follow, but never intending to amend. Dissimulation and greedy Deceit are the Ring-leader of his Enterprize. Wrath and Revenge are his Waiting-men. Pride and Palise are babes of his breeding, Sedition and Double dealing are the staves he walks by, which when they once begin to fall, he is like to have such a dangerous fall that he will be never able to recover.

This evil and guilty conscience may be fitly compared to a Rotten hedge, placed on a piece of false hallo w ground, which although it seems safe in the outside, the inside affords nothing but ugly Snakes, Loads, Adders, and such dangerous Creatures which are ready every hour to eat, throw the very bowels of that Dam that gave them sack.

Such a conscience had Pharaoh when he opposed himself against the Commandments of God, and would not let the children of Israel passe, Exod. 5. 2.

Such a Conscience had Absalon, when he sought to destroy his own Father, Samuel 2. 18.

Such

Such a conscience had Jezabell the Queen who for lucre sake and thirst of gain, bore false witness against her righteous Neighbour Naboth, as you may read in the first book of Kings 19. 2.

Such a Conscience had Judas, which after he had betrayed the Innocent, went and hanged himself.

And such a Conscience had the Rich glutton, which despised poor Lazarus the Cripple that fell from his Table, and after, being in hell torments, cried out for one drop of water to cool his Tongue, Luke 16.

By these Examples dear Friends, my counsell is, that you take notice, and in the Name of God the Father, and the Sonne, and the holy Ghost, let every man strive to keep a good conscience: for Conscience is that Pilot that will direct you either to eternall bliss or everlasting destruction.

The next matter that I am to put you in mind of, is to beware of Cursing, Swearing, and Blaspheming Gods holy Name.

Our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in his New Testament, Gave us a new Commandement, which was to love one another, and withall, he gives us a strict charge to  
pray

pray for our Enemies; and them that hate us. And furthermore he saies. Bless them that curse you. But how many in these our times do we see that are willing to doe good for evill: why surely the greater sort of people now a dayes will rather repay evill for good, then doe good for evill, and will rather curse their Friends, then pray for their Enemies: but the fruits of Cursing and Swearing are as followeth. A Curse proceeding out of the mouth of an ugly Creature, is like an Arrow shot against a plate of Steele, which having no power to enter, reboundeth back and woundeth him that shot it unto the very heart; and as for Swearing, be that raps out a needlesse Bath, displeaseth God to please the Devil.

Therefore dear Christians, my Counsell is to every one, That you forbear Cursing and Swearing, and all other Ungodly qualities whatsoever. And with the New Year begin a New Life. And as the dayes do wax every day longer then other, so let us Endeavour to be every day better and better, and let Pride be Exchanged into Humility, Envy into Love, and Covetousness into Bounty, and Wrath into Patience: and as  
you

you begin the year well, so I desire you to continue, For blessed are they that continue to the end.

There are many, and too many that are now living, that never think of death, as may appear by their lives and conversations. Do we not see many Young men and others, given so much to Riot, that they spend that in their youth, which should keep them when they are old: Who having wasted all, and spent their whole patrimony, are afterwards glad to Feed with the Swine, like the prodigall child, Luke 15.

My counsell therefore is this to all men, That they take Example by wise Joseph, who in the time of seven years plenty, laid up in store for seven yeares of scarcity. By which means through the blessings of God, he preserved the life of his good old Father Jacob and the rest of his brethren, and many thousands more besides, which else had perished through want, as you may read in the book of Genesis.

Patience is the gift of God, and Armour of Proof. He that can obtaine this gift, is sufficiently armed against all the fiery darts and Tempalls, which the world, the flesh, and the

the Devil can throw at him. But if the Armour of patience be wanting, he is a lost man. For no sooner comes the smallest blast of persecution that can be spoken of, but presently it pierceth through the very Brain-pan of the Skull, and Rankles to the Heart and Reins, and at last it will destroy the whole body and endanger the Soul.

Therefore my Counsell is, That you do make patience one of your chief companions, whether your company be many or few, and to follow the Apostles rule, who saith, Be ye patient brethren untill the coming of the Lord. James 5. 4.

There are many that are become Mark-makers for the Devil; and will all persuade the simple sort of people, that there is no hell. Others there are that desire to know where hell is, but I think there's none desire to go thither.

But this I am perswaded, That they that are most diligent to inquire for it, may the soonest know where it is. The Lord in his mercy keep all good Christians from it.

Is it not Impudent madnesse in People, to seek after such a place which was prepared



red for none but the Devil and his Angels,  
 Matth. 13. And where there is nothing but  
 weeping, and howling, and gnashing of  
 teeth.

Good Christians, my Counsell is, that you  
 employ all the faculties of your Soules and  
 Senses to seek after Heaven and Heavenly  
 things, and remember the words of our Sa-  
 viour, who saith, Seek, and ye shall find.

To which place of endless joyes, the  
 Lord that made our Soules, re-  
 ceive and bring us to his ever-  
 lasting Kingdom. Amen;

*He a secret murderer  
 he that at secrets shall robbe his arme  
 is like the flay that smites a bout the flay  
 he never comes to his untill he brings  
 himselfe to men as at least his wounds  
 and like a delivred flay though he has bene  
 none scordit he comes at the flay againe*

AP 57  
 F I N I S.  
*one a flay*

*The one delivred flay repairs at first  
 to the full cope only to quench her thirst  
 but often time she goes about the bin  
 and sips soe long till she is drowne  
 when wanton desire still present they are  
 with lawish copies remember but the flay*

212